



# UUnews

An Intentional  
Liberal Religious Community

December 2003

Unitarian Universalist Church of Greensboro

Join us for our  
worship services at  
9:30 and 11:00  
each Sunday  
morning.

## Holidays with UUCCG

Dec. 7 ..... 8:00 p.m.  
**Triad Pride Men's Chorus  
Benefit Concert**

Dec. 6 ..... 5:00 p.m.  
**"Hanging of the Green" -  
Festival for the Holidays**

Dec. 7 ..... 2:00 p.m.  
**Winter Walk for AIDS**

Dec. 13 ..... 6:00 p.m.  
**Progressive Dinner**

Dec. 20 ..... 7:00 p.m.  
**Yule Celebration/Ritual  
(CUUPS)**

Dec. 21 ..... 5:30 p.m.  
**Hanukkah Celebration**

Dec. 27 ..... 7:00 p.m.  
**Christmas Eve  
Candlelight Service**

Dec. 26 - Jan. 1  
**S.W.I.M. (Miami)**  
[www.swimuu.org](http://www.swimuu.org)

## WORSHIP services

### ■ December 7

#### "A First Worship Gift of the Season"

RevAlex

As a first worship gift of the season with RevAlex, the tree will be up in the sanctuary. It'll be decorated and full of lights. We'll gather to mark the beginning of this precious time in our church year. Come ready to sing, to laugh, to celebrate all our gifts in this season of gifting.

*Service Leader:* Selby Bateman  
*Visitor Table Host:* Kyle Elliott/Liz & Jack Harrell  
*Coffee Hosts:* TBA  
*Flowers:* Liz & Jack Harrell  
*Ushers:* (1st) Marv Breeze, Dennis Hands  
(2nd) Sue Cole, Charlene Collins  
*Building Closer:* Ken Williams

### ■ December 14

#### "A Second Worship Gift of the Season"

RevAlex

The pieces are all laid out. Poems, stories, songs, myths from long-gone time, memories of seasons past—we'll weave in and out of it all as we worship together this morning, doing all we can to touch heart and mind and soul with the wonders of the season.

*Service Leader:* Allison Dunmore  
*Visitor Table Host:* Ellen Muratori/Maureen Parker  
*Coffee Hosts:* Membership Committee  
*Flowers:* Gladys McNatt  
*Ushers:* (1st) Suzanne Deering, Sue Cole  
(2nd) Audrey Ihrig  
*Building Closer:* Ken Williams

### ■ December 21

#### "On the Third Sunday of Christmas My True Love Gave to Me ..."

RevAlex

We won't know what we're getting this Sunday morning until we get here. It's one of those Santa's surprises! Come in hope. Come in faith. Come in joy for all that might be!

*Service Leader:* Lindsey Bergman  
*Visitor Table Host:* TBA/Ed Eklund  
*Coffee Hosts:* Marian Stewart  
*Flowers:* Martha & Jim Fowler  
*Ushers:* (1st) John Boyd  
(2nd) Glorianna Locklear, Audrey Ihrig  
*Building Closer:* Ken Williams

### ■ Wednesday, December 24— 7:00 p.m.

#### "Christmas Eve Service" RevAlex

We gather as is our custom to mark this special night. The sharing of song and story will be our service. We'll close holding candles in hand and each other in heart. Bring your families, your friends, and the stranger in need of caring embrace.

### ■ December 28 "Liberal Religious Community"

UUCCG Worship Committee

We gather as liberal religious community to celebrate all that we are and our community's divine potential. Listen for details about this service in December services and in e-mail announcements.

*Service Leader:* TBA  
*Visitor Table Host:* TBA  
*Coffee Hosts:* TBA  
*Flowers:* Holly Holliday  
*Ushers:* (1st) Glorianna Locklear  
(2nd) Ken Williams  
*Building Closer:* Ken Williams

# CALENDAR December 1 - 31, 2003

(MMR) - Music/Meeting Room (S) - Sanctuary (W/W) - Weight Watchers \*\*Denotes activities not at church

SUNDAY a.m.		SUNDAY p.m.	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			<b>December 1</b> 1:00 pm Staff Meeting (MMR) 3:30-5:30 pm Music Lessons (MMR)  **6:15 pm Night Shelter 6:30 pm CUUPS Program (RE #5) 6:30 pm CUUPS Finance (RE #4) 7:00 pm Music (MMR) 7:30 pm Book Study (RE #3) 7:30 CUUPS Executive (RE #5) 8:00 CUUPS Chapter (S) 8:00 pm AA (RE #1)	<b>December 2</b> 12:00 pm Lunch Group (K/S)  6:45 pm W/W (RE #2, 4/5) 7:00 pm Worship Ctte. (RE #3) 7:30 pm Meditate Grp (RE #6)	<b>December 3</b> 9:30 am W/W (RE #2, 4/5)  6:45 pm W/W (RE #2, 4/5) 7:00 pm Communications (MMR) 7:15 pm Choir (S) 7:30 pm Executive Council (Alex's Office)	<b>December 4</b> 11:30 am-3:30 pm Lunch Learners (RE #6/7)  6:00-7:00 pm Yoga (S) 6:45 pm W/W (RE #2, 4/5) 7:00 pm Membership Ctte. (MMR) <b>8:00 pm Triad Men's Choir Concert (S)</b>	<b>December 5</b>  7:00 pm CUUPS Membership (S/K/MMR) 8:00 pm Pagans Night Out (S/K/MMR)	<b>December 6</b>  8:30 am W/W (RE #2, 4/5)  5:00 pm <b>Hanging of the Green Festival for the Holidays</b>
<b>December 7</b>  9:00 am Dir of Music (MMR) 9:30 & 11:00 am Worship (S)  12:30 pm LRE Committee (RE #2)  **2:00 pm Winter Walk 2:30 pm Girl Scouts (RE #3)			<b>December 8</b> 1:00 pm Staff Meeting (MMR) 3:30-5:30 pm Music Lessons (MMR)  7:00 pm Christian Affinity (MMR) 7:30 pm Poetry Group (RE #3) 7:30 pm Society for Creative Anachronism (S) 8:00 pm AA (RE #1)	<b>December 9</b> 12:00 pm Lunch Group (S/K)  6:45 pm W/W (RE #2, 4/5) 7:00 pm CUUPS Full-Moon Circle (S/K/MMR) 7:30 pm LRE (RE #1) 7:30 pm Meditate Grp (RE #6)	<b>December 10</b> 9:30 am W/W (RE #2, 4/5)  6:45 pm W/W (RE #2, 4/5) 7:00 pm Program Council (MMR) **7:00 pm Board to UUF Winston-Salem Board	<b>December 11</b>  6:00-7:00 pm Yoga (S) 6:45 pm W/W (RE #2, 4/5) 7:15 pm Choir (S)	<b>December 12</b>  2:00-10:00 pm Wedding (S/K/MMR/RE#4)	<b>December 13</b>  8:30 am W/W (RE #2, 4/5)  6:00 pm <b>Progerssive Dinner</b> (S/K and off-site)
<b>December 14</b>  9:00 am Dir of Music (MMR) 9:30 & 11:00 am Worship (S) Sing-Along Sunday  12:15 pm Social Action Committee (MMR)  5:00-9:00 pm Greensboro Peace Coalition Peace Meal (K/S)			<b>December 15</b> 1:00 pm Staff Meeting 3:30-5:30 pm Music Lessons (MMR)  **6:30 pm Ladies Night Out (Grapevine) 7:30 pm Finance Ctte. (MMR) 8:00 pm AA (RE#1) 8:00 pm Bereavement Group (RE #3)	<b>December 16</b> <b>Newsletter Deadline</b> 12:00 pm Tuesday Lunch Group (K/S)  6:45 pm W/W (RE #2, 4/5) 7:30 pm Meditation Group (RE #6)	<b>December 17</b> <b>Julie's Day Off</b> 9:30 am W/W (RE #2, 4/5)  6:45 pm W/W (RE #2, 4/5) 7:30 pm Board Meeting (S)	<b>December 18</b>  6:00-7:00 pm Yoga (S) 6:45 pm W/W (RE #2, 4/5) 7:15 pm Choir (S)	<b>December 19</b> <b>Hanukkah Begins</b> 11:00 am-8:00 pm Blood Drive (S)  7:30 pm Social Bridge (RE #6/7) 8:30 pm Knights of Herne (RE #1)	<b>December 20</b> <b>Hanukkah</b> 8:30 am W/W (RE #2, 4/5)  7:00 pm CUUPS/Yule (K/S/MMR)
<b>December 21</b>  9:00 am Dir of Music (MMR) 9:30 & 11:00 am Worship (S)  **12:15 pm <b>Choir Party</b>  5:30 pm <b>Hanukkah Celebration</b> (S/K)			<b>December 22</b> <b>First Day of Winter</b> 1:00 pm Staff Meeting 3:30-5:30 pm Music Lessons (MMR)  7:00 pm Christian Affinity (MMR) 7:30 pm Poetry Group (RE #3) 7:30 pm Society for Creative Anachronism (S) 8:00 pm AA (RE #1)	<b>December 23</b> 12:00 pm Lunch Group (K/S)  6:45 pm W/W (RE #2, 4/5) 7:30 pm Meditation Group (RE #6)	<b>December 24</b> <b>Office Closed for Christmas Eve</b> 9:30 am W/W (RE #2, 4/5)  7:00 pm Christmas Eve Service (S)	<b>December 25</b> <b>Office Closed for Christmas Day</b>	<b>December 26</b> <b>Office Closed for Holidays</b>  <b>Kwanzaa Begins</b>  **SWIM (Southeastern Winter Institute in Miami)	<b>December 27</b> 8:30 am W/W (RE #2, 4/5)  **SWIM (Southeastern Winter Institute in Miami)
<b>December 28</b>  9:00 am Dir of Music (MMR) 9:30 & 11:00 am Worship (S) Intergenerational  Potluck Lunch after Service (S/K)  **7:00 pm Board Covenant Meeting  **SWIM (Southeastern Winter Institute in Miami)			<b>December 29</b> <b>Office Closed for Holidays</b> 3:30-5:30 pm Music (MMR)  8:00 pm AA (RE #1) **SWIM	<b>December 30</b> <b>Office Closed for Holidays</b> 9:30 am Mail Newsletter 6:45 pm W/W (RE #2, 4/5) 7:30 pm Meditation Grp (RE #6) **SWIM	<b>December 31</b> <b>Office Closed for New Year's Eve</b> 9:30 am W/W (RE #2, 4/5) 6:45 pm W/W (RE #2, 4/5) **SWIM			





**N**ot too long ago I took a call from a person who used to be a part of us. The call was to let me know they still considered themselves a UUCG'er even though they were no longer around. I asked, "How long have you been gone?" "Twelve years," the reply. "Long time to stay away," I said and then added, "Why?" "I'm still angry about..." came next.

I felt shock and a great sadness in hearing this—shock that anyone would hold onto a grudge toward a congregation for that long and sadness that it would keep someone so far removed from the potential gift of our congregation.

Later as I pondered all this, I remembered a wise black woman who mentored me along my path. She told me once that out of her religious tradition she understood that every single thing that comes our way, all of life, is coupled with a "lesson and a blessing" (spoken with attitude!). Her words came to me as a loving nudge around some intense whining I was doing with her at the time. I've come to treasure her rejoinder to me from that conversation. Each time I find myself deep in my anger, my hurt, my confusion, the worst of my being human, I try now to stop and remember her words, "a lesson and a blessing" I hope there's someone equally wise to share with our long-gone and still angry UUCG'er.

I also wish I'd understood this wisdom back in the first grade when I got picked to be one of the 3 Wise Men for our school's Christmas

Pageant. Fearful little 5-year-old Mama's boy that I was, I found myself on the other side of my acting, standing off-stage, realizing as I looked at my bare feet and shoes that needed to be put back on that I didn't yet know how to tie them. And so I went back onto the stage, crying and disrupting the rest of the performance because I couldn't touch anything but my own fear in that moment. I was kidded unmercifully about that crying for a long time afterwards. Any sense of a lesson and blessing for me from that event was to come much later. Good news is that it did come. And so I thank all that is divine for that gift. Each Christmas, I now relish the laughter that I have remembering just what a wuss I was... and still can be.

I so hope that all of us humans, the world over, can come to look at what goes on in the response we have to our lives against the possibility of there being a lesson and a blessing for us in it all. I read the story of Jesus' birth these days and marvel at what a wise mother and father the kid had. No whining from either of them about unexpectedly becoming parents. No panic about having to up and leave the country. Just a strong measured and caring response that served them well. May it be so for each of us.

Much heart and the happiest of the holidays to each of you,  
RevAlex



**Rev. Alex L. Richardson, Minister**

*Office Hours:*\* Monday–Wednesday 1:00 p.m. until ...  
Thursday 10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.  
(Please call office for appointments.)

*Home Phone:* 230-0823

*E-mail:* uurevalex@aol.com

**Julie Hamilton, Congregational Administrator**

*Office Hours:*\* Monday 10:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m.  
Tuesday–Friday 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

*Office Phone:* 856-0330

*Office Fax:* 856-0384

*E-mail:* uucg@aol.com

**Lori Koenig, Religious Education Coordinator**

*Office Hours:*\* Please call for an appointment

*Office Phone:* 856-0330

*E-mail:* uucgdirre@aol.com

**Mark Freundt, Director of Music**

*Office Hours:*\* Please call for an appointment.

*Home Phone:* 288-4873

*E-mail:* mfreundt@guilford.edu

\*Staff meetings (open) are held on Mondays at 1:00 p.m.

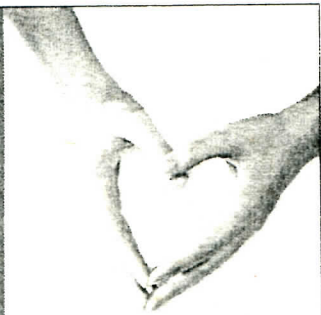
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*It's time for the 13th month holiday gift!*



# WISHES, NEEDS & OPPORTUNITIES

Lend a  
hand by  
giving  
from the  
heart.



**GIVE BLOOD**

Unitarian Universalist Church of Greensboro

5603 Hilltop Road  
Jamestown, NC

Friday, December 19, 2003  
2:00 - 6:30 PM

To make an appointment, please respond  
by email or call:  
Linda Bridges 852-3995  
Craig Mankoff 275-2143

Please bring photo I.D.



American  
Red Cross  
1-800-GIVE LIFE  
www.redcrossblood.org

## DONATIONS REQUESTED FOR FAMILY & SCHOOL

*Becky Floyd, Social Action Committee*

During the holidays, the Social Action Committee will collect donations for a needy family through the Interfaith Hospitality Network and donations for an elementary school classroom for children with emotional and behavioral disorders through the Mental Health Association. More details will be available later on the bulletin board and before and after Sunday services. Your generosity will make a difference!

Thursday, December 4

8:00 – UUCG

All proceeds  
to benefit  
UUCG

make the  
**YULETIDE**  
*Gay*  
with  
triad pride  
men's chorus  
**A Holiday Concert**

## 13TH-MONTH HOLIDAY GIFT

### *Make Your Holiday Donation Count*

*Gisela Pollak, Finance Committee Chair*

Blessings to you one and all as we enter the joyous Holiday Season.

Thanksgiving has just ended and we have so much to be thankful for in our Church community. We have so many ways to deepen in our souls. We are all on a life's journey. And those who enter our doors and our programs or who come to our church community from their homes are all on this journey together.

Our Church enriches us in many ways as we continue on our journey. It is a home of Ministry, both Sunday mornings and other times of need. It offers a rich and beautiful and diverse array of music through our choir and our choir director. Children are welcome and have opportunities for religious education and numerous youth activities through our Religious Education Director. Adults have many opportunities to follow spiritual and intellectual pursuits.

Our Church allows for and encourages the capacity to create bonds of caring, of friendship, and of compassion for individuals, families, and the wider community.

It is a place where we nurture each other through social activities, as well as reach out to one another as individuals.

We reach out to elderly people, feed homeless people, shelter homeless families, raise money and collect food for the local food bank, work on social justice issues. We cultivate a sense of compassionate awareness within our own congregation and in the larger community.

At this time, we are entering the Holy Season, a season of great celebration and of great giving. Giving takes many forms. For some, it is a gift of time. For others it is a gift of compassion. For many, it is a gift of money.

Giving a gift of money to our Church is a long held tradition for most of us. This year as you ponder your gifting to our Church, please be aware of all that is offered here. The very existence of our Church allows for so much. Share in our outreach of Heart and in our outreach of Compassion.

For those that are able, consider your gifting in the amount of a month's pledge or donation. Make this the Thirteenth Month giving. In other words, whatever you give in each month, make your Holiday gift the equivalent of a month's pledge or donation.

For those who cannot do so, please give whatever donation you can, either at this time or as a pledge for the coming months. For those who are unable to gift money at all, please give the gift of compassion for the rest of us. That is greatly welcome as well.

We will make an appeal for these donations or pledges on December 7 and December 14. Please be ready to help.

Blessings to all.



## WEEKLY pulse

	Attendance <small>(TWO SERVICES)</small>	Visitors	RE <small>(SUNDAY + FRIDAY)</small>	Offerings <small>(TWO SERVICES)</small>
10/26	51/112	5/6	2+2/17+7	\$1,453/\$1,328
11/2	41/76	2/2	25 + 13	\$1,546/\$2889
11/9	37/118	1/2	*	\$335/\$1,432
11/16	50/105	10/3	2+4/19+7	\$338/\$2,717
11/23	52/100	0/4	0 /23+7	\$786/\$1,053

\*Intergenerational Service

## MEMORIALS, GIFTS & HONORARIUMS

Gift in Honor of Mark Freundt .....Dennis Shaw

Gifts in Honor of Rev Alex's birthday .....Mary Breeze,  
Sara Bourquin, Sandie & Selby Bateman

Gifts in Kind .....Alyse Ford, Michele Cybulski

Service auction thanks to Rick Price for allowing us to run credit cards  
transaction through his company and to Triad Health Project for lending  
us 5 tables.

## from DENNIS ...

### THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS

My father's father was an active lifelong member of the Reformed Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, sometimes known as the Mormons. His uncle (my great-great uncle) was named Joseph Smith Hands in honor of the famous founder of that American religion. When I was a teenager living at home, we received a holiday card from grandpa that wished us a "Merry Xmas."

My mother's family was Baptist. When my mother and father began their family, they decided that the kids would be raised in one church, and that would be Baptist. Both my parents were as active as they could be in the Baptist churches we attended as a family. The "Xmas" card did not go over well with my mother.

Yes, I've heard about the symbolism of the "X" in Xmas, but my mother was more concerned about the symbolism of taking "Christ" out of Christmas.

I do have some personal troublesome baggage surrounding my experiences with Christianity and my membership in the Southern Baptist Church. I've heard that there are a number of Unitarian Universalists who may carry painful memories from their earlier associations with different Christian denominations.

I wish I had something profound and healing to offer to sooth the hurt some of us still feel. I'm afraid I don't.

### Dennis Hands President



In the Parks and Rec church softball league, a prayer is shared by both teams after each game. Occasionally I feel awkward with the prayers offered by our opponents. Usually the teams are celebrating the joy of sportsmanship and life, but every now and then someone will pray that we might all find the "one way" to salvation. Last month I felt warmly welcomed during my visit to a local Baptist church. While I disagreed with some of the theology presented, there was a degree of comfort there.

Jesus' message of peace and love, forgiveness and joy, are still with me. Although I may not be a Christian in the sense meant by many of our conservative neighbors, for me the message of Christ is one of hope and trust.

In our troubled nation and world, in our hearts and in our communities, don't we need those things? Even though Jesus' message may have been mistranslated and misinterpreted over the centuries, our hearts and our world can still benefit from a little more hope, a great deal more forgiveness.

I wish you Merry Christmas.

Dennis

## BOARD contacts

Contact information for members of the LUCG Board of Trustees

Dennis Hands, President.....294-7985 .....dennishands@earthlink.net  
Allison Dunmore, Vice President.....854-1716 .....ahdunmore@aol.com  
Selby Bateman, Secretary .....545-0483 .....selbybateman@aol.com  
Susan Hill, Treasurer .....272-5445 .....SCHKALI@aol.com  
Marty Bergman, Past President.....299-7822 .....mberg5906@aol.com  
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Ken Williams .....674-0535 .....williams@ncat.edu



## ■ 2003 CONGREGATIONAL ASSESSMENT

### *Committee on Ministry*

Did you know that a recent sampling of our membership shows that 46 percent of us attend services fewer than two times per month and that 43 percent of us have children but 25 percent of those stayed away from functions because of a lack of child care?

Did you also know that at least 60 percent of us are post college graduates? And that at least 78 percent of us want the church to grow? These are but a few of the gleanings from our 2003 Congregational Assessment, part of our ongoing, comprehensive annual self-assessment coordinated by the Committee on Ministry (COM).

In the assessment, which was drawn from 28 respondents (out of 80 questionnaires mailed), members said that we are doing a good job at worship, leadership recruitment, and making use of our facility. Members expressed satisfaction that they have opportunities to develop faith and to find meaning. We patted ourselves on the back for encouraging each other to be involved in ministry and mission, and for inspiring spiritual growth. Respondents also said that members are encouraged to use individual skills and talents.

There were many aspects of congregational life about which members feel we are doing well but could be doing better. One of these involves the general area of encouraging new membership and fostering commitment to Unitarian Universalism and UUCG. Our own folks say that we can improve on inviting people to UUCG and being comfortable talking about our faith outside the congregation. Similarly, respondents noted that we could do a better job at nurturing and encouraging people to join our various groups.

Other areas in which we could do better include leadership, staff, and facilities. It was noted that we generally feel that the church's leadership receives support, encouragement, and resources, and that we are open to new ways of doing things. We patted ourselves on the back for making progress toward fair compensation for our staff and for making expectations of staff clear and understood. Moreover, it is believed that our RE facility is adequate for our needs.

And members said we need improvement. Areas singled out for improvement are:

- Becoming a visible and well-known congregation
- Welcoming visitors and integrating newcomers into our membership
- Actively planning for membership growth and increased attendance
- Fostering a sense of direction
- Studying community needs for planning
- Inspiring generosity and raising money to pay staff and support the congregation's programs and outreach

- Handling capital financial needs well
- Attracting young adults
- Having a core group of young adults to help build programs
- Valuing youth ministry

The COM wishes to thank those who responded to this year's survey. Your reflections will inform the church's ongoing work to fulfill its mission, work that is being taken up by the Board of Trustees, committees, staff, and task forces of this great community.

## ■ BOARD OF TRUSTEES

### *November Actions & Highlights*

#### *Selby Bateman, Secretary*

The following is a brief overview of reports heard and actions taken by the Board of Trustees at its November 19 meeting:

- Minister's Report: RevAlex presented the first of several monthly reports he has planned on church goals, congregational growth, and financial planning as they relate to positive, proactive leadership at UUCG now and in the future.
- Minister's Report: Alex reported that, following consultation with Director of Music Mark Freundt, they were recommending that the church not have a Christmas pageant this year, due, in part, to low numbers of children participating in Religious Education.
- Following a report by Liz Grimes on the status of the Director of Religious Education search, the Board voted unanimously to table the issue pending further study by the Board.
- Steve Pearsall, director of the recent service auction, reported that the total amount raised is approximately \$6,000. He thanked all who helped make the auction a success, especially Liz and Jack Harrell who raised significant donations from the community for the auction.
- Wendell Putney, chair of the Human Resources Committee, presented a UUCG-administered Health Care Flexible Spending Agreement for paid staff. The Board voted unanimously to adopt the agreement.
- Rita Layson, member of the Committee on Ministry, reported on a recent Congregational Assessment. (See related story in this issue.)
- Darwin Honeycutt, chair of the Committee on Ministry, read a report pertaining to issues raised by Eleanor Twiss in relation to RevAlex.
- Don Groce, chair of the Buildings & Grounds Committee, offered a report on storage issues and building use.
- The Board voted unanimously to approve employment agreements for the Director of Music and the Congregational Administrator, as presented by the Human Resources Committee.



- The Board voted unanimously to table action on (1) the covenant between the Board and RevAlex and (2) Board roles and tasks.

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees will be on Wednesday, December 17, 2003, at 7:30 p.m. at the church.

## ■ RECONCILIATION TEAM

**Dear Artie,**

What should we do about vicious gossip?

ARTIE: Important issue to be addressed. This can be really destructive and divisive of a group, community, or congregation, and as we are trying to build a united Beloved Community, it is something we want to remedy quickly. It is like a disease that gets initially caught by someone then passed on to others with contact until, suddenly, we have an epidemic. The idea is to nip it in the bud before it has a chance to spread. It's so tempting to indulge in the gossip bug. And certainly some gossip is harmless. But when it is clearly of the virulent variety, of what good can it be? What if you were its object? How would you feel if others were spreading such rumors about you?

If someone gives gossip to you, hold firm immediately: Ask where he or she heard this and whether it is true. If it is, it is important to go back to the source and advise him or her to go to the person or committee and talk about the upset, how the person feels, what can be done to solve the problem, and explore ways that the situation can be remedied.

This person may want to ask a Reconciliation Team member to help with this process. If it is not the truth, then it is important to stop it right there and inform others who have spread it that they are spreading lies. If it has already gotten to epidemic proportions, then there is a real problem. In this case, the antidote is the truth, plus an apology to the injured party. Gossip can be a really hurtful entity, so we all want to stop it and correct it as soon as we hear it. But the best course is PREVENTION. Avoid this activity like the plague it is.

This is the first of a new column of communication tips by your Reconciliation Team. Send your questions to us [c/o valputney@aol.com](mailto:c/o_valputney@aol.com) or put in the Rec. Team mailbox at church.

## EVENT *recaps*

### SERVING THE HOMELESS

**NEXT DATE: MONDAY, DECEMBER 1**

*David Emrey*

UUCG's hosting of its 185th successive monthly dinner for the homeless was on Monday, November 3, at the Urban Ministry building at the corner of Elm-Eugene and Lee streets, with 10 UU's pitching in to prepare, cook, dish out, and serve.

UU's served their first dinner at the new Urban Ministry building on February 1, 2003. The church's first involvement was seven years prior to that at the old Bi-Lo grocery (now torn down) on Asheboro Street. In those days, volunteers spend all night as monitors, and the heated canned meals cost more than \$130 per event. The hat was passed each Sunday to cover the events.

On November 3, Chuck Bergman gave thanks and the crew began to dish out the tea, stew, fruit, rice pudding, and vegetarian dish. Cost to the church was \$42.50 to feed approximately 50 persons—some for seconds and thirds.

Ken Jones cooked the stew, Liz and Jack Harrell and Audrey Ihrig pared the fruit, Chris Aaroe sliced and liberally buttered French bread, and Scott McNeill and Maruka Rivers dished out rice pudding and tea. Jared Mankoff and his dad Craig together whipped up and served a tasty vegetarian dish.

It was a busy place from 6:15 to 8:15 that evening, but productive, meaningful, and fun. Come if you want to help the first Monday of each month. Just show up at 6:15 p.m.

### CONGRATULATIONS! CARE PARTNERS RECEIVES AWARD

**NEXT DATE:**

*Janet Plummer*

Seven of us from Shepherd's Center of Greensboro were greatly surprised at the annual Shepherd's Centers of America Convention in Kansas City, Missouri, October 24-26. Our CarePartners' program won First Place in the most innovative program of all the Shepherd's Centers in the United States. What a thrill it was!

Our church takes an active part in CarePartners. Our volunteers give respite to caregivers who provide 24/7 care to their loved ones in their homes. Some of us work alone; most of us work in teams and provide care three hours each week. If you'd like to be trained (10 hours) to be a CarePartner, please contact the Adult Center for Enrichment or see Sara Bourquin, Chellie Mason, or Janet Plummer, CarePartners' team leaders.



## THANKS FOR THE PEANUT BUTTER

Sara Bourquin

You have all been very generous this fall. We went over our peanut butter quota at Urban Ministry Food Bank for the past two months! Many Greensboro families thank you! Please don't forget them during this busy season. I'll deliver the next peanut butter donation about December 8.

## upcoming EVENTS

### POETRY GROUP UPDATE

**NEXT MEETING: MONDAY, DECEMBER 8, 7:30 P.M.**

*Glorianna Locklear*

The Poetry Group is pleased and proud to have some of our youth showing up at our meetings, often with self-made poems in hands. Guy Gunn, son of Harold and Tish Gunn, is an ambidextrous artist, being both a poet and an extremely creative photographer. You may have seen and even bid on some of his innovative, compelling photographs at the service auction. If so, you know how talented he is that way, and he is quite the budding verbal artist too. It is heartening to see our young people both able and involved in the spirit of our church. We wish more were, as we enjoy the breath of fresh air they bring in with them.

Even though Kelly Card is deeply involved with the Christian Affinity Group at the time of Poetry Group meetings these days, we still claim him as one of our own, as we have seen and appreciated the depths of his poetic nature. Out of that nature arises this hymn to the Great Mystery that engrosses humanity everywhere as light turns on its toe and slowly comes back to us:

#### Invocation

Spirit of Mystery, Passion, and Light,  
Come. Come and release your sweet scent this night.  
Come and unravel the wonder of birth.  
The budding of flowers from darkness of earth.

Take us to Eden where heavenly might  
Created a garden of earthly delight.  
Show us the love of all beauty unveiled;  
Love of the flesh before sin had prevailed.

—Kelly Card

### PROGRESSIVE DINNER SET

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13**

Come celebrate the holidays with the people you like the best! Festivities start at 6:00 p.m. at the church with hors d'oeuvres. Everyone will be assigned a home to go to for the entrée part of the meal, which starts around 7:00 p.m. Desserts will be served at 8:30 at the home of Ann Laidlaw and Ron Williams. Don't miss what has traditionally been the biggest church party of the year! Sign up at the

church by December 7.

*Note:* There will be a small fee to cover the cost of beverages and set up, and you will be asked to contribute one "dish" for the meal

### HANUKAH CELEBRATION

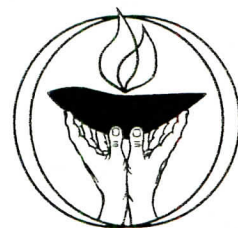
**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21, 5:30 P.M.**

Come join us for the miracle of the lights! Hannukah is upon us, and the JewU's have a festival in the making. On December 21, beginning at 5:30 p.m., we will hold a service to commemorate the oil that burned in the ancient temple for eight days—a miracle! This is a very light-hearted, family-friendly time, with food, wine, games, and singing. We are also going to read a special children's book, make latkes, and eat dinner. If you want to join in the fun, please contact Glorianna Locklear to RSVP or sign up in the lobby. Please note that we will make recipes available through Holly Holliday for those of you who aren't sure of the type of potluck dish to bring along and share! We will also need folks to help us fry latkes, bring wine, decorate, and so forth. To help, contact Nancy Gore.

### PEACE MEAL

*Tom Clayton*

WHERE: Unitarian Universalist Church  
WHEN: Sunday, December 14, 2003  
6 o'clock PM  
SPEAKER: Ed Whitfield



This is a pot luck dinner.

Bring your favorite dish—enough for yourself and to share with others  
Sponsored by the Greensboro Peace Coalition

### ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

**THREE CLASSES BEING OFFERED**

*Susan Hill & Nelson Stover*

Explore religious issues with members of your church family. Here are some possibilities for you to consider.



## ► CAKES FOR THE QUEEN OF HEAVEN

### *Seminar in Feminist Theology*

Starting Monday, January 5

General areas to be explored are:

- Why Women Need the Goddess
- Seeking the Female Presence in Judaism and Christianity
- Contemporary Feminist Spirituality

This 10-week workshop will be held on Monday nights, beginning January 5, from 7:30–9:30 at UUCG. A donation of \$10 is requested. Registration for this session is limited to adult women. For more information, please contact Susan Hill at [shkali@aol.com](mailto:shkali@aol.com) or 272-5445.

## ► OUR GREAT WORK:

### TOWARD A NEW EARTH RESOLVE

Saturday & Sunday, February 7-8

This facilitated, two-day course provides a practical context for living in the Ecozoic Era. In four sessions, participants discuss how creativity emerges in the Universe and ways the Earth Charter provides a new framework for comprehensive care, share their individual eco-stories, and discuss the practical personal and social transformations necessary to foster the Ecozoic Era. The course provides a way to discover how each of us can begin Our Great Work.

Our Great Work is being offered in conjunction with the Institute of Cultural Affairs and the Center for Ecozoic Studies. The course will be held at Bur-Mil Club. The registration fee is \$90 per person or \$150 per couple. To register or to obtain further information, contact Nelson Stover at 605-0143, [FNStover@igc.org](mailto:FNStover@igc.org), or visit [icagboro.home.igc.org](http://icagboro.home.igc.org).

## ► HERE I STAND

February 15–April 11 (Sunday evenings)

This nine-week journey toward constructing a theological position uses a facilitated approach. The series provides an opportunity to think through fundamental life issues and to make sense out of matters of ultimate concern. The conversations and written expressions are designed to crystallize interior brooding. "Here I Stand" is based on the UU course entitled "Building Your Own Theology." The class will meet on Sunday evenings from 7:30–9:00 at the church beginning on February 15, 2004 and running through April 11. The issues discussed in the individual sessions are often interrelated and participants are encouraged to attend the entire series.

The nine sessions include:

1. Being Religious: What does it mean to be religious?
2. My Life Timeline: What is the journey of my life?
3. Wringing Meaning: How do I touch the depths of my life?
4. Being Human: Where do I fit in the natural order?
5. The Face of God: What is my current understanding of "God"?

6. My Meditative Council: Who guides and informs my life?
7. My Ten Commandments: What are the operating principles of my life?
8. My Mission: What will I do with what I have created here?
9. Here I Stand: A Celebration of Affirmation.

To register or to obtain further information, contact: Nelson Stover at 605-0143 or [FNStover@igc.org](mailto:FNStover@igc.org).

## ADULT CENTER FOR ENRICHMENT WRAPS IT UP!

*Nancy Gore*

Support the Adult Center for Enrichment by getting your gifts wrapped **S**weekdays at Friendly Shopping Center. The wrapping is free to the public and gifts do not have to be purchased at Friendly to be wrapped. Customers do need to bring their own boxes. Donations will be accepted to support the adult day services provided by the Adult Center for Enrichment. We also need gift wrappers. This is a great volunteer opportunity for individuals, small groups, and families with children, (12 and over). Contact Nancy Gore, 274-3559 or [volunteer@acecare.org](mailto:volunteer@acecare.org) if you can help the Adult Center for Enrichment WRAP IT UP!

## CAMPUS MINISTRY SEEKS ADVISOR

### *Fellowship of UU Students*

*Scott McNeill*

FUUS (Fellowship of Unitarian Universalist Students), the Campus Ministry in Greensboro, is going great. We're off to a pretty good start, but we're getting held back because we need the help of one of YOU! That's right, we need an advisor so that the group can be officially recognized (which gives us Web space, meeting spaces, and the like). Below, I've listed the requirements for our group, and if anyone can help us, we desperately need it. If you're interested (even if you're unsure) please contact me at 336-334-1749 or [bsmcneil@uncg.edu](mailto:bsmcneil@uncg.edu)!

1. UNCG-FUUS shall maintain at least one full-time faculty, staff, or graduate student Advisor in accordance with the regulations of the Office of Student Life. (\*\* Special allowances can be made through approval with the Office of Student Life.)
2. The Advisor(s) will maintain contact with UNCG-FUUS by attending as many meetings as possible. The Advisor(s) should work with the Executive Board to keep the Advisor familiar with the activities of the group, but should also recognize the need for the Advisor(s) to have time for a life outside of the UNCG community.
3. The Advisor(s) should demonstrate familiarity with University policies and procedures and help UNCG-FUUS to comply with them.
4. The Advisor(s) will help in the training of new Board Officers and help them develop leadership skills.



5. The Advisor(s) is to chair the Executive Board meeting during deliberation on an accusation to remove a Board Member and may only act to structure the discussion.
6. The Advisor(s) must attempt to be present at all election meetings and tally all votes. Should the Advisor(s) be unavailable, it is the responsibility of the Advisor to find an alternate from the Office of Student Life
7. Advisor(s) will remain in position until the Advisor(s) resigns, or is asked to step down.

## THE LARAMIE PROJECT

*Directed by Hardy Koenig*

**DECEMBER 3 & 6**

An account of the aftermath of the brutal murder of Matthew Shepard by Moises Kaufman and the members of Tectonic Theatre Project will be presented by the Guilford Technical Community College (GTCC) theatre. This show, directed by our own Hardy Koenig, runs December 3-6 with an 8:00 p.m. curtain. Come spend an evening at the theatre!

Fine Arts Theatre, Koury Hospitality Careers Center, GTCC, Jamestown Campus; General Public \$12, Seniors \$10, Students \$6. For reservations call (336) 334-4822 Ext. 2496.

## "JESUS, THE EARLY YEARS" DISCUSSIONS

*At Holy Trinity Episcopal Church*

**WEDNESDAYS, DECEMBER 3 & 10**

*Richard Watt and Kim Hudson*

Discussions on "Jesus, the Early Years," to be facilitated by Kim Hudson of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church (HTEC) and Richard Watt of HTEC and UUCG, will be offered on Wednesdays, December 3 and 10, at 6:30 p.m., at the house at 516 Simpson Street (located behind HTEC; residence of the Servant Leadership School of Greensboro). The discussions will use the Discovery Channel video series, *Jesus, the Complete Story*, to explore the strange fables that surround the birth and early life of Jesus as narrated in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke.

PEOPLE OF ALL FAITHS AND PERSPECTIVES ARE WELCOME. THE ONLY PREREQUISITES ARE OPEN MINDS AND HEARTS.

Coffee, tea, and refreshments will be offered at no cost. RSVP by December 1. To respond, or for questions, directions to the house, etc., contact Richard Watt at 855-8334 or richardsmithwatt@aol.com.

## CHRISTMAS WITH BEL CANTO

*Holiday Concerts Scheduled*

**DECEMBER 5, 6, & 8 IN GREENSBORO**

Bel Canto's annual Christmas concert kicks off the official Holiday season in the Triad. That's what we hear from countless members of the audience each year. In keeping with the American music theme of the entire season, Bel Canto presents a wide range of carols, old and new, with a distinctly American history—including works of North Carolina composers Sally Ann Morris and Dan Locklair. René Clausen's *Magnificat*, Conrad Susa's *Three Mystical Carols* and Ed Henderson's *Milagros de Navidad* are among the works illustrating the mystery and celebration of the season.

Back by popular demand is an opportunity for the audience to raise its voice in song with Bel Canto for a couple of well-known carols. Bel Canto is again privileged to showcase the Company's educational partners, the Greensboro Youth Chorus & Cantabile and the Central Carolina Children's Chorus in these performances.

Although you may be familiar with the musical reputation of Bel Canto, you may not know that three of our very own are a part of this illustrious vocal group: Wendell Putney, Bill Frisch, and Rene Summerlin. If you would like to support their efforts and spend a very enjoyable evening, select a performance date from those listed below.

**Friday, December 5 at 8:00 p.m.**

**Saturday, December 6 at 8:00 p.m.**

**Monday, December 8 at 7:30 p.m.**

Above concerts are at Christ United Methodist Church, 410 N. Holden Road, Greensboro. Tickets are \$18, \$15 (senior), and \$5 (student), and are on sale at the Carolina Theatre Box Office, Tel: 336-333-2605. Information is at Tel: 336-668-1020.

**December 1, 2003, 7:30 p.m.**

Front Street United Methodist Church, 136 South Fisher Street, Burlington; Information at Tel: 227-6263; Free to the public.

**December 2, 2003, 7:30 p.m.**

First Presbyterian Church, 918 N Main Street, High Point; Information at 884-2248; Free to the public.

**December 9, 2003, 7:30 p.m.**

Centenary United Methodist Church, 646 W Fifth Street, Winston-Salem. Benefit for Music Ministry and Local and World Outreach. Tickets are \$15 (adults), \$12 (seniors), and \$5 (students). Information is at 724-6311.

For a complete schedule of Bel Canto concerts this season, visit [www.greensboro.com/belcanto](http://www.greensboro.com/belcanto).





## USED BOOK & BAKE SALE

*Friday Evening & All Day Saturday, Feb. 13-14*

*Communications Committee*

What better way to celebrate Valentine's Day than a "Book Lovers" used book and bake sale at UUCG? The Communications Committee is sponsoring the first annual "Book Lovers" used book sale, scheduled for February 13-14 in the church sanctuary, as a fundraising event for the church. The Finance Committee will be sponsoring a bake sale at the same time.

Committee members have already collected approximately 200 hardback books, many of them new and recently published, from various sources. UU members and friends are asked to donate any used paperback and hardback books, cassette and CD music/audiobooks, record albums, and VCR and DVD films that they don't need in the future. Details on how and when to donate will be forthcoming later.

UU members and friends are voracious readers. Let's share our books with the larger community, giving them the joy of sharing their dollars with us.

## CALLING ALL BAKERS!

### BAKE SALE DURING BOOK SALE

The Finance Committee needs the help of all you fine bakers in our community. We will be selling refreshments during the Book Lover's Used Book & Bake Sale as a FUNdraiser, and we hope you will help us make this a big success by providing us with the items to sell. (Brownies, cookies, biscuits, pound cake, pumpkin bread, and any foods that can be easily served and eaten in single portions.) We also need folks to staff the table during the sale.

Funds raised will go into our general operating budget. **For more information or to sign up to lend a hand, call Linda Sullivan at 282-3207.**

## BOOK *watch*

### *Dude, Where's My Country?* by Michael Moore and *The Da Vinci Code* by Dan Brown

*Reviewed by Tom Clayton*

*Dude, Where's My Country?* and *The Da Vinci Code* may not seem to have a connection, other than having been number one on *The New York Times* Bestseller List in non-fiction and fiction categories, respectively. I see a connection that has caused me to attempt to review two books at once. Both books present a radically different view of our commonly accepted gestalt. Moore uses reality to expose the political fiction of our time, and Brown uses fiction to expose realities of religious history.

Following Moore's bestseller, *Stupid White Men ... and Other Sorry Excuses for the State of the Nation!*, which was written before 9/11, his new offering concentrates his focus on one, George Bush. Moore has seven relentless questions about the 9/11 tragedy for our President. He also has a special chapter with a message from God. The chapter on what a utopian country would look like is a special and encouraging treat. If you follow the exploits of the current administration closely from some alternative sources on the Internet, you may not find much actually new in Moore's presentation. But reading it condensed in one book with Moore's irreverent, nay, heretical style, with up-front humor and razor-sharp wit is just too pleasurable to pass up. Just to see that it

is still possible in this country to publish a book like this and have so many people preorder it that it was number one on amazon.com before it was actually released, will give encouragement to anyone wishing for the return of democracy to the United States.

Dan Brown has written a fictional account of a murder in the Louvre and the subsequent cops-and-robbers chase across Europe for the killer(s). Ho hum. He does it well enough to be good summer reading, but the popularity of the book has extended into fall, and, as I write, it is the number one fiction bestseller for the *Times* ... again. Why? I can't speak for others, but the reason I enjoyed it was the religio-historic context that unfolds with the chase. Suddenly, a chase thriller turns into a Holy Grail Quest, the panorama of millennia converging into the fate of two unsuspecting protagonists and a few hours of what had started as an ordinary day for both. Don't think of where the grail is, but who the grail is. How is it connected to the sacred feminine and the "chalice and the blade"? Who is at Jesus' right hand in the Da Vinci painting, *The Last Supper*? I won't tell. You have to read the book. But like Moore, Brown offers a different door to perception.





Unitarian Universalist Church of Greensboro  
5603 Hilltop Road • Jamestown, NC 27282

[www.uugreensboro.org](http://www.uugreensboro.org)

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## UUA Covenant

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote:

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations;
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

## LIBERAL RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY

*ALL are welcome in this church. Distinctions of power, privilege, and estate,  
which apply outside these doors, do not apply within them.*

*Women and men and children, persons of any color, culture, age, ability,  
economic status, or affectional orientation, skeptics and those  
pursuing common or unorthodox religious paths.*

**ALL ARE WELCOME HERE.**

**UUnews** • Newsletter mailed: November 25, 2003 • Next Newsletter Deadline: December 9, 2003

The UUnews communicates news and information of this congregation and comes free of charge to members and pledging friends. Others may receive a yearly subscription for \$20.00.